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The Housing Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, Ct 06106

Dear Chairman and Members of the Joint Housing Committee::

I am Dori Wollen and have lived in Easton for 46 years. I am writing to you re Bill No. 5326, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPEALS PROCESS AND REMOVING THE MUNICIPAL OPT-OUT DEADLINE FOR ACCESSORY APARTMENTS. I believe this language can be improved by inserting on line 151, after "residential users" exempting any municipality in which more than 70% of the land is within a watershed protection area. This will safeguard and protect the public water supply watershed lands of the State from dense development, thereby providing another level of protection from pollution. This amendment is consistent with the State's Conservation & Development Policies Plan 2018-2023 Revised Draft, Growth Management Principle #5 that urges protection and ensures the integrity of environmental assets critical to public health and safety. In other words, there is nothing of greater importance than protecting the public health and well-being of our citizens. Public water supply watersheds are an indispensable resource for the State's future and their protection is an urgent necessity of public policy.

Easton is 80+% watershed and we provide most of Fairfield County residents with water and about 20% of the State's water. We need the State to step in and safeguard its water and our wells. Private citizens and appointed zoning volunteers do not have the expertise or resources to shoulder this pivotal task.

Mr. Chairman, we urge you to recognize that 8-30g in its current form does not work for every town in our State. This is not a one size fits all situation! This law has NOT worked since inception and it is time that this Committee steps up to fixing it.

Sincerely,

Dori Wollen